



## FACT SHEET

### SNAP...

*is the new name of the Federal Food Stamp Program* as of October 1, 2008. The new name reflects the changes we've made to meet the needs of our clients, including a focus on nutrition and improvements in accessibility. SNAP is the federal name for the program; some State programs may have a different name.

*New policies* as a result of the Farm Bill improve access to meet the needs of our clients:

*New*

Minimum monthly benefit increased to \$14 and indexed it to inflation.

*New*

Minimum standard deduction increased to \$144 and indexed it to inflation.

*New*

Retirement and education accounts are no longer considered countable resources.

*New*

All dependent care costs (child care and care for elderly or disabled household members) are now considered when determining eligibility and benefit amount.

### DID YOU KNOW...

*Current clients* do not need to fill out any extra paperwork as a result of the Program name change.

*Nutrition education* is available to help clients learn to make healthy eating and active lifestyle choices.

*Children automatically qualify for free school breakfast and lunch* when they receive SNAP benefits. Some participants may qualify for WIC benefits.

*EBT cards*, which are similar to debit cards, can be used in approximately 171,000 authorized retail stores nationwide.

*SNAP is good for communities.* Every \$5 in new SNAP benefits generates nearly twice as much (\$9.20) in total community spending.



USDA's Food and Nutrition Service's (FNS) 15 nutrition assistance programs touch the lives of one in five Americans each year and work in concert to form a national safety net against hunger. Its largest program, SNAP, serves more than 28 million low-income individuals each month.

The new name reflects the mission to provide food assistance and increase nutrition for the health and well being of low income people.

For more information, visit [www.fns.usda.gov/snap](http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap) or call 1-800-221-5689.

*SNAP: Putting Healthy Food Within Reach*

*USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*

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